



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Further with reference to plague on the steamship Nippon Maru.

[See PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, No. 28, July 14, 1899.]

SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE STATION,
Angel Island, Cal., July 28, 1899.

SIR: In confirmation of my telegrams of June 27 and June 28, *et seq.*, I have the honor to report further on the steamship *Nippon Maru*, which arrived at this port from Hongkong via Japanese ports and Honolulu. It appears from the reports of Sanitary Inspector Eldridge, dated from Yokohama, that the vessel was held in quarantine for seven days at Nagasaki on account of a death occurring among the Chinese steerage on May 26, two days before arrival at the latter place. The examination conducted by the quarantine authorities, demonstrated the cause of death to be bubonic plague. The cabin and steerage passengers were removed to the quarantine station, and there given a bath.

The effects of the steerage were disinfected. After seven days detention the vessel was discharged from quarantine, on June 3, and proceeded to Yokohama. The sanitary inspector reports, "I have some doubts as to this case having been of an infectious nature, but whether so or not the measures seem to have been such as to render any special precautions here unnecessary."

On June 15, three days before arrival at Honolulu, another death occurred in the steerage. In this instance it was a Chinese adult. The diagnosis of the ship's surgeon was uremic convulsions. The body was embalmed and brought to Honolulu. The port physician, Dr. Day, in company with Surgeon Carmichael, made the examination of the body, a report of which has already been furnished the Bureau.

The bacteriological examination conducted by Dr. Alvarez demonstrated both by culture and inoculation experiments the bacillus of plague.

The second case occurring on the vessel after disinfection, was due to either a long period of incubation, twelve days, or to imperfect method of disinfection, I am unable to determine which. On the vessel's arrival at Honolulu, a Japanese woman, aged 29, was found to be ill with what appeared to the port physician to be cerebral hemorrhage, due in all probability to specific origin. The case had been ill (I think it was stated) for a day before arrival at Honolulu.

The port physician would not remove the case to the quarantine hulk *Columbia*, although destined for Honolulu. The reason stated was, that on account of the precarious condition the removal would only hasten the fatal termination. Death occurred two days out from San Francisco; the body buried at sea.

The vessel was kept in strict quarantine at Honolulu for four days, after which time she departed for San Francisco. Surgeon Carmichael recommended that the vessel be held and disinfected, but this was not acceded to.

The conditions on board were not encouraging, due in most part to the lack of discipline, so much so, that almost all the cabin passengers were in a state of panic. At the captain's request, 3 physicians among the cabin passengers volunteered to aid the ship's surgeon in disinfecting the steerage compartments, as recommended by the port physician. This was done as well as could be under the circumstances, but was not in my opinion efficient.

On the morning of June 27 the vessel arrived and was boarded by

Dr. Mathewson and myself. On making examination of the ship's papers, particularly those of the ship's surgeon, nothing was found that had any bearing on the cases of illness, occurring during the voyage, nor could an intelligible verbal statement be obtained. There were no clinical histories recorded, nor were temperatures recorded.

In view of these facts, and that 2 cases of bubonic plague had occurred en route, and that a case had occurred at Honolulu—about which there was a doubt as to the cause of death—I deemed it wise to order the vessel in quarantine.

On inspection, I found all well on board. The number on board as per ship's papers was: Cabin passengers, 55; European steerage, second cabin, 6; steerage, Japanese, 32; steerage, Chinese, 106; stowaways, 2; crew, 176; total, 377.

The vessel was ordered to anchor on the lee of the island, about 1½ miles from shore, in order to facilitate the landing of the passengers and crew. At 5 p. m. the customs established a guard about the vessel by means of a launch, 4 men being on watch. This was maintained throughout the vessel's detention.

The cabin passengers were landed on June 27 and their effects disinfected. On June 28 the steerage and as many of the crew as could be spared from the vessel were removed to the station, bathed, and their effects disinfected.

On removal of the steerage and crew, 7 Japanese were found who were not accounted for by the ship's officers. On investigation it was learned that these had only been known to the European officers since the embarkation of the crew began. These men were stowaways who had been hidden in the coal bunkers. I strongly suspect that some of the subalterns were cognizant of their presence and connived at their concealment.

Late in the afternoon of the 28th it was reported in the San Francisco papers that the bodies of 2 Japanese had been found near the Gate, evidently drowned. A life preserver was on each body, marked with the vessel's name.

On inquiry of the stowaways I obtained from 3 of these, independent of one another, the following history: Since it was known that all persons were to be landed, the stowaways, at the connivance of the crew, were to escape from the ship by swimming ashore. They were informed that if they were found on the ship the officers would return them to Japan. So at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 28th they donned life belts preparatory to jumping overboard. Watching their opportunity, 2 made the attempt while the others gave it up.

All these stowaways were in good health, partaking of a full meal on the evening of the 27th. The bodies of the drowned Japanese fell into the hands of the city authorities who alleged that these cases died or were infected with bubonic plague. The announcement was made only after twelve hours examination. Fortunately I obtained a preparation made from a culture from the glands from these cases and found it not to resemble that of the plague. After removal of all the textile fabrics to the station the vessel was taken to the Omaha and there disinfected.

After the completion of disinfection on June 29, a new crew being provided, the vessel was given pratique to proceed and discharge cargo.

Upon the owners' request, and Bureau approval, the crew and 9 stowaways were put on board after the vessel loaded and proceeded to Japan direct.

The cabin passengers, 55, having completed the fifteen days' detention, all being well, were discharged on July 11.

The steerage passengers were discharged on July 12, all well, one remaining in hospital (childbirth).

Respectfully, yours,

J. J. KINYOUN,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Case of yellow fever on Spanish bark Triunfo.

SOUTH ATLANTIC QUARANTINE STATION, *August 9, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival at this station Sunday afternoon of the Spanish bark *Triunfo* from Caballerio via Havana to Brunswick and remanded thence here on account of a suspicious case among the 21 passengers, who are all returning to their homes in the Canary Islands via Brunswick.

This case developed fever the day of arrival in Brunswick (3d instant), which was the fifth day from Havana. The patient died about ten hours after arrival here, and a necropsy done by me confirms the diagnosis of yellow fever. The vessel, the effects of passengers and crew, and containers of the cargo (rum) have been disinfected. The vessel is held.

Respectfully, yours,

HUGH S. CUMMING,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Case of typhus fever at Mobile.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *August 4, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Marine-Hospital Service letter of July 26, 1899 (G), relating to the case of Adolf Momm-sen of the Danish steamship *Flandria*, who died of typhus fever in the marine-hospital at Mobile on July 20, 1899, as reported in my letter of July 20.

I arrived at Mobile hospital about 12.30 a. m. of that day and remained with the man until his death at 9 a. m., doing what I could for him.

Health Officer Goode had described the case and given his opinion on the way to the hospital, and I was more than willing to find reason to dispute with him as to diagnosis and the restrictive measures adopted.

I found the man with a temperature of 104°, pulse 120 to 126, weak and gassy, rapid respiration, semidelirium, subsultus tendinum, and a double mottling of the skin; the upper flecking appeared as freckles over chest, trunk, and thighs, but beneath there was a mosaic mottling of all colors, although no color was decided. There were fine watery pimples over the greater portion of the abdomen. The temperature at noon and 6 p. m. had been over 39°.

The freckled eruption did not disappear on pressure but the second larger coloration would disappear for a moment on stroking with the finger or pressing with the hand. The face was dusky as if the skin was under a layer of smoke.

The tongue was dry, brown, and sore. The breath was very offensive. The mind was clouded and he could only give a few rational words at a time, but the dry and sore tongue prevented plain speech.

The spleen was not notably enlarged and was very tender. At 4 a. m. the temperature was 186°, the pulse 140, but difficult to count on account of the subsultus. At 8 a. m. the coloration was deeper but did not become purpuric.